

CLAIMS:

1. A hand tool comprising:
a tool head for performing work;
a handle including a main portion extending in a longitudinal direction
5 between a gripping portion and a tool head supporting portion opposite the gripping
portion;
the gripping portion being offset at an inclination in relation to the
longitudinal direction of the main portion; and
the tool head supporting portion being offset at an inclination in relation
10 to the longitudinal direction of the main portion.
2. A tool according to Claim 1 wherein the gripping portion and the
tool head supporting portion are offset at a lateral angle from the main portion in a
same direction.
3. A tool according to Claim 1 wherein the gripping portion and the
15 tool head supporting portion are offset at a vertical angle from the main portion in
opposite directions.
4. A tool according to Claim 1 wherein the gripping portion is offset
from the main portion of the handle at a compound angle including a lateral angle
and a vertical angle.
- 20 5. A tool according to Claim 1 wherein the tool head supporting
portion is offset from the main portion of the handle at a compound angle including a
lateral angle and a vertical angle.
6. A hammer comprising:
an elongate handle having a main portion and an end portion of
25 reduced dimension;
a head having a body and an opening formed in the body for snugly

receiving the end portion of the handle therein; and

fastening means for securing the end portion of the handle within the opening in the head whereby the head remains selectively separable from the handle.

5 7. The hammer according to Claim 6 wherein the fastening means comprises a threaded fastener.

 8. The hammer according to Claim 6 wherein the opening extends through the body of the head and wherein there is provided a wedge for being snugly received in one end of the opening, the narrow portion of the handle being
10 received in an opposing end of the opening.

 9. The hammer according to Claim 8 wherein the wedge includes a through bore receiving the fastening means therethrough.

 10. The hammer according to Claim 8 wherein there is provided a plate member spanning the end of the opening receiving the wedge therethrough,
15 the fastening means securing the plate member to the handle for clamping the head and wedge member therebetween.

 11. The hammer according to Claim 6 wherein there is provided a plurality of interchangeable wedges having differing weights.

 12. The hammer according to Claim 6 wherein the fastening means
20 comprises a threaded rod supported on the handle and a threaded nut securing the head between the nut and the handle.

 13. The hammer according to Claim 12 wherein the threaded rod is received in a bore formed in the handle and wherein there is provided a compressible member surrounding the rod within the bore.

25 14. The hammer according to Claim 6 wherein the fastening means including a first threaded member secured to the handle and a second threaded

member for mating with the first threaded member, the fastening means including a resilient washer clamped between confronting faces of the first and second threaded members.

15 15. The hammer according to Claim 6 wherein the handle includes reinforcing hafting material surrounding the main portion adjacent the end portion supporting the head thereon.

10 16. The hammer according to Claim 6 wherein the body of the head extends in a longitudinal direction of the head between an impact face which is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction and a claw member which curves in the longitudinal direction towards the handle, the handle being supported transversely to the longitudinal direction of the head and wherein there is provided a domed fulcrum member selectively mounted on the body of the head opposite the handle.

15 17. The hammer according to Claim 6 wherein the body of the head extends in a longitudinal direction of the head between an impact face which is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction and a claw member which curves in the longitudinal direction towards the handle, the handle being supported transversely to the longitudinal direction of the head and wherein the body of the head includes a domed fulcrum member integrally formed on the body of the head opposite the handle and which is continuous in profile with the claw member.

20 18. The hammer according to Claim 6 comprising a kit including a plurality of heads, each having an opening formed therein of similar configuration for receiving the end portion of the handle therein, each head varying in dimensions from remaining heads of the kit.

25 19. The hammer according to Claim 18 wherein at least one head includes an impact area differing in dimensions from remaining heads of the kit.

20. The hammer according to Claim 18 wherein at least one head

includes a weight which is greater than a weight of each of the remaining heads of the kit.

21. The hammer according to Claim 6 wherein the main portion of the handle extends in a longitudinal direction of the handle between a gripping portion of the handle and the end portion supporting the head thereon opposite the gripping portion, both the gripping portion and the end portion being offset at an inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction of the main portion.

22. The hammer according to Claim 21 wherein the gripping portion and the end portion are offset at a vertical angle from the main portion in opposite directions.

23. A tool according to Claim 21 wherein the gripping portion and the tool head supporting portion are offset at a lateral angle from the main portion in a same direction.

24. A hammer comprising:
an elongate handle having a main portion and an end portion of reduced dimension, the handle including an elongate bore extending from an open at the end portion to a terminal end within the handle;

a head having a body and an opening formed in the body for snugly receiving the end portion of the handle therein; and

a tension member received through the bore in the handle and secured under tension between the terminal end of the bore and the head.

25. The hammer according to Claim 24 wherein the tension member comprises a rigid rod.

26. The hammer according to Claim 24 wherein the tension member is threadably secured to the terminal end of the bore.

27. The hammer according to Claim 24 wherein the head is secured

to the handle by a clamping member threadably secured to the tension member.

28. The hammer according to Claim 24 wherein the handle is maintained under compression between the terminal end of the bore and the end portion by the tension member.

5 29. The hammer according to Claim 28 wherein the bore extends at least one third a length of the handle.